

interview and although no formal agreement was reached, Examiner Preisch agreed to reconsider the rejections of record particularly in view of the amendments to the claims to clarify that the heat-resistant oxide is a material other than zeolite, thus distinguishing the heat-resistant oxide component from the zeolite component.

2. Claims 1-6 and 11-12 were rejected under §102/§103 over Inoue et al. or JP '061. This rejection is respectfully traversed for the following reasons.

Inoue et al. disclose catalytically active zeolites for cleaning exhaust gas. The disclosed zeolites have an $\text{SiO}_2/\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ ratio within a range of about 20 to 100, and are ion exchanged with noble metals (see column 3, lines 13-17 of Inoue et al.). The zeolite, after ion exchange, is pelletized with any number of natural clays or inorganic compounds, including heat resistant oxides. After the pellets are formed they are calcined. According to Inoue et al., the heat-resistant oxides are not loaded with a noble metal. Rather, the oxides of Inoue et al. (e.g., alumina, silica, magnesia) are pelletized with the aluminosilicate after the aluminosilicate is ion exchanged with a noble metal. Therefore, the noble metals are not ion exchanged with or otherwise loaded on the inorganic oxides. Accordingly, Inoue et al. fail to disclose or suggest a two-component composition as claimed, including (1) a zeolite component and (2) a heat resistant oxide, other than zeolite, loaded with a noble metal.

The disclosure of JP '061 essentially parallels that of Inoue et al., and also fails to disclose or suggest a heat-resistant oxide loaded with a noble metal. JP '061 teaches preparing a slurry of zeolite, silica sol, alumina sol and water. The slurry is coated on a carrier (e.g., a honeycomb structure), and the carrier is then fired. Thereafter, the zeolite, not the binder formed by the alumina and silica sols, is ion exchanged with a metal catalyst. As shown in Fig. 4 of JP '061, the resulting structure provides a plurality of zeolite particles 1 exposed at an outer surface of binder 3. The metal catalyst 5 is ion exchanged with the exposed zeolite particles 1. Accordingly, like Inoue et al., JP '061 fails to disclose or suggest a two component structure as claimed, including (1) a zeolite and (2) a heat resistant oxide, other than zeolite, loaded with a noble metal.

For at least the foregoing reasons in view of the amendments herein to Claims 1 and 3, reconsideration and withdrawal of the §102/§103 rejection over Inoue et al. or JP '061 are respectfully requested.


Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Examiner Preisch is requested to issue a Notice of Allowance for all pending claims.

Should Examiner Preisch deem that any further action by the applicants would be desirable for placing this application in even better condition for issue, she is requested to telephone applicants' undersigned representative at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

PARKHURST, WENDEL & BURR, L.L.P.

12/2/96
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